SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I want a positive response from the Government. I wish that this report is wrong. I wish that there was no scandal of defence purchases. But there has been a scandal in defence purchases as well. I can give you the CAG report also. I have associated myself with the hon. Member on the Siachen issue. I supported you, Mr. Ahluwalia. You referred to internal problems as well as external problems. You referred to external pressure from U.S.A., arms obtained by Pakistan and all that. I said that internally we should be prepared for that. You left that question unanswered. I answered that question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to adjourn the House for lunch. So, we can only expect the Government to take note of the serious matter regarding defence of the country raised here. Whatever action the Government wants to take on this, it will take.

The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at nine minutes past two of the clock **The Vice-Chairman (Shri Md. Salim)** in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now Shri P. Chidambaram is to withdraw the Companies Bill, 1993.

THE COMPANIES BILL, 1993

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Companies Bill, 1993.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now Shri P. Chidambaram is to introduce the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1996.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Now, we will continue with the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Power.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Shri Prem Chand Gupta; not here. Shri Brahmakumar Bhatt; not here. Shri Dipankar Mukherjee, Smt. Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel wants to go for a meeting, she will speak before you speak.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (Contd.)

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, I would like to make some observations on the working of the Power Ministry. Power is the life-line of today's world. Without power there is no economic development. It is a basic infrastructural facility for the growth of agriculture, industrial development and employment generation. Now-a-days rural development also depends on the availability of power. On the other hand, we are facing actute power shortage due to heavily increasing demand and less avilability of power. We face frequent power cuts announced or unannounced, planned or unplanned. The fact remains that it hampers the progress of our nation.